

ception of about half a dozen which seemed to be, and probably were, fractured); and this is the more extraordinary, as all my Coralline-Crag specimens of this species have come from a locality, at Sutton, where at least nine tenths of the shells found are young, or at least specimens which have not attained to their full growth. The difference in size among my specimens of this *Ringicula* is very considerable, as might be supposed, some being as long again as others; and if the small ones had not been furnished with a thickened lip, there would have been no hesitation in referring them to the immature condition of the species. If these small specimens with a thickened lip be not in many instances young shells, may we not ask what has become of the immature specimens? Have they never died from any other causes than predaceous ones while under full age? I am inclined to believe that the small shells of *Trivia* and *Ringicula* may be mostly immature individuals which, by a law attaching to their structure, assumed, in anticipation of a natural death, this thickened margin to the outer lip. Of course, any immature specimens killed suddenly would retain their juvenile forms, but we must assume that nearly all killed suddenly were so killed for food, and consumed; so that we do not find these fossil, though in the recent state the immature forms ought to occur frequently as *living* shells.

In the genera *Cassis* and *Cassidaria* we often see that after this apparently adult character of a thickened lip, or varix, has been formed by the young animal, it had continued growing to its full size; and this early thickened lip is denoted by a ridge (or ridges) left upon the spire of the full-grown shell; but I have in vain looked for this ridge upon the spire of any of my numerous specimens of *Ringicula*, either large or small.

Perhaps some of your correspondents can throw a light upon this question.

I am, Gentlemen,
Yours truly,

SEARLES V. WOOD.

Brentwood, Jan. 1871.

Observations on the Invertebrata of Massachusetts.

By ALFRED BELL, Esq.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

GENTLEMEN,—I shall be glad if you will permit me to make a few remarks upon the new issue of Dr. Gould's Report on the Invertebrata of Massachusetts, just published.

It is to be regretted that, in bringing out a second edition, the works of European conchological authors have been so little consulted. A very little care would have tended to the reduction of errors and the avoidance of useless synonymy, thus advancing our present scientific knowledge.

Tellina obliqua, Sow., is a very extreme form of *Macoma sabulosa* (= *Tellina calcarea, lata, proxima*, &c.), very abundant in all the English Craggs, from the Coralline upwards. The typical form does not occur till higher up in the Crag series, and then but rarely at first.

Astarte sulcata, DaCosta.—The group for which Dr. Gould suggests the name *undata* is identical with the *Astarte Omalii*, La Jonkaire, a very characteristic English and Belgian Crag shell, in which deposits all the forms mentioned are to be found.

Yoldia limatula, Say, and *Y. myalis*, Couthouy.—Dr. Binney is in error in supposing *Y. myalis* and *Nucula hyperborea*, Lovén, to be the same species. The latter is the shell often quoted in European lists as *Y. limatula*, Say. Both *Y. myalis* and *hyperborea* are fossils of the English Tertiaries. *Y. myalis* and the typical *Y. limatula* are not known as members of the European fauna. *Y. hyperborea* is excellently figured in Torell's 'Spitsbergen Mollusker.'

Margaritana arcuata, Barnes.—I confess I am unable to separate American examples of this shell which have passed through my hands from Unios obtained in different European localities. Like all the freshwater shells, it varies according to circumstances. The same may be said of *Anodonta fluviatilis*.

Littorina palliata, Say, is probably the same as the *Turbo littoralis*, Linné, = *L. limata*, Lovén.

Scaloria multistriata, Say.—Under this heading two shells are mentioned, for one of which, if distinct, Prof. Adams has proposed the name *S. pulchella*. Bivona (1832) has already appropriated the specific appellation (Philippi, En. Moll. Sic. vol. i. t. 10. fig. 1).

Nassa trivittata, Say, = *Nassa (Buc.) propinqua*, Sow. Min. Con. t. 477. f. 2 (1824).—A Crag shell no longer known in the European seas.

Fusus islandicus, Gould (not Chemnitz).—This handsome shell differs in several respects from the type both in form and sculpture, and is the shell which Mr. Jeffreys has proposed to call *F. curtus*, and myself *F. americanus* (Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. Sept. 1870). This is another of the English Tertiary shells no longer found living in European waters.

I am, Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,

ALFRED BELL.

29 Grafton St., Fitzroy Square, London.
January 9, 1871.

On Oligochaetous Annelids.

GENTLEMEN,—Please add to my paper as a *note*, or, if too late, as an addendum in your miscellaneous articles:—

“The bodies described by Hering as the testes agree in number and position with those I have seen; but he does not give illustrations of their microscopical structure.